

## SYPHILIS COULD YOUR PATIENT HAVE IT?

**DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF SAN DIEGO'S FIGHT AGAINST SYPHILIS**

### COULD THAT ORAL ULCER BE PRIMARY SYPHILIS?

*fig. 1 & 2*

- The lesion of primary syphilis is the chancre, which can appear in the oral cavity
- Oral chancres typically are single painless ulcers with firm borders and a clean base
- Regional lymphadenopathy can be present

### COULD YOUR PATIENT HAVE SECONDARY SYPHILIS?

*fig. 3 & 4*

- Lesions of secondary syphilis can include mucous patches, which are white-gray plaques on the tongue
- Patients with secondary syphilis can be systemically ill, with malaise, sore throat, headache, weight loss, low-grade fever, or muscle aches
- Patients with secondary syphilis can also have generalized lymphadenopathy, skin rash on the trunk, palms and soles, and a patchy hair loss on the scalp

### THINK YOUR PATIENT MAY HAVE SYPHILIS?

- Refer your patient to the County of San Diego's STD Clinic, at 3851 Rosecrans St. Clinic hours are 7:30 am - 4 pm MTWF, and 10 am - 4 pm on Th
- Clinicians at the main County of San Diego STD clinic will see your patient and may provide same-day diagnosis of and treatment for syphilis

### WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SYPHILIS?

- Call the County of San Diego at (619) 692-8501 between 8 am and 5 pm on normal business days
- Screening, testing, and treatment information:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/2006/genital-ulcers.htm#genulc6>

### Syphilis in San Diego County

- 525 cases in 2008, an increase of over 1300% when compared to 2000
- 78% of cases were among gay men or other men who have sex with men, of whom 64% were HIV-infected



*fig. 1* PRIMARY SYPHILIS, chancre.



*fig. 2* PRIMARY SYPHILIS, chancre.



*fig. 3* SECONDARY SYPHILIS, mucous patch.



*fig. 4* SECONDARY SYPHILIS, rash.



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